



IN REPLY REFER TO:

## United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Glacier National Park  
West Glacier, Montana 59936

L76  
GLAC-03-019

Dear Friends:

Glacier National Park is preparing an environmental assessment (EA) to analyze the construction of an access path across federal land. The Park is proposing to issue a Special Use Permit that would authorize two landowners to use an access path to move building material from a park administrative road, across federal lands, to their property. An all terrain vehicle would be used to move the building material. Glacier National Park would widen the access path to accommodate this use.

The property is 1750 square feet in size and is located on Snyder Ridge near Lake McDonald Lodge. Road access, as provided for in the owner's deed and the 1916 subdivision plat, has never been constructed. Access to the property currently occurs by driving approximately ½ mile up a National Park Service road that services a water tank and then walking about 75 yards across park lands to the property.

The Special Use Permit would include a clause whereby the owners waive their right to construct their deeded access road in return for the Park allowing them to use the water tank road and the access path. The Special Use Permit would allow for the transportation of building material for one year after which the access path would be rehabilitated back to a footpath.

The access path would be located in mature cedar-hemlock forest. Disturbance associated with construction would include removal of numerous small hemlock and cedar trees (most less than 2" in diameter) and the clearing of downed logs and stumps. No large trees would be removed. The path would be widened to approximately 6 feet.

Alternatives considered in the EA will include: (1) widening and construction of the path and issuance of a Special Use Permit to transport building material; (2) exchange of the subject parcel for other property within the Park where road access is already available; and (3) no action. Under the "No Action Alternative" the Park would not issue a Special Use Permit, potentially resulting in the owners constructing a road from the Going-to-the-Sun Road as

provided for in their deed. Purchase of the site by the government is not considered an alternative because the landowners are not willing to sell the parcel to the Federal government.

Issues identified to date include the affects of constructing a widened path on vegetation, wildlife, and soils.

An early step in the EA process is to involve the public and we welcome your comments regarding this proposal. Please send your comments to: Glacier National Park, Attn: Access Path Construction, P. O. Box 128, West Glacier, Montana, 59936, by February 2, 2003. Or email comments to [glac\\_project\\_public\\_comment@nps.gov](mailto:glac_project_public_comment@nps.gov).

Sincerely,

/s/ John Kilpatrick

Authenticated by Donna J. Owen 1/2/03

Michael O. Holm  
Superintendent